

**MEETING OF CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

WASHINGTON, Sunday, May 10, 1862.  
A meeting of the Conservative members of both branches of Congress, was held in the Hall of Representatives, this afternoon, for the purpose of constituting us to the best means to defeat the schemes of the Secessionists and Abolitionists. The entire meeting consisted of the following named gentlemen, representing the specified States:

New-York—John V. Ward and John B. Steele.

Tennessee—George T. Clegg and Wm. G. Steele.

Pennsylvania—Philip J. Johnson and John L. Hayes.

Ohio—Wm. Allen, Samuel S. Cox and James H. Morris.

Illinois—Wm. A. Richardson, J. C. Robinson, A. L. Knapp and George W. Denslow.

Rhode-Island—Wm. P. Sheppard.

Kentucky—John J. Crittenden, Garret Davis, L. W. Powell, Robert M. T. Hunter, George A. Cannon, Hiram Bingham, Wm. H. Washburn, John R. Grider, George W. Denslow, L. C. Tracy and Charles A. Wickliffe.

Indiana—W. H. Voorhees, James A. Grimes, Wm. S. Hamilton and John L. Day.

Missouri—John C. Brown, T. L. Price, W. H. Hall, John W. Neal and James S. Rollins.

North Carolina—Wm. G. Cogdell and Edwin H. Webster.

Virginia—Joseph Scott, Jacob B. Blair and William G. Brown.

Mississippi—Willard P. Saulsbury and George P. Fisher.

Shortly after the hour appointed for the meeting, Mr. MALLORY of Kentucky, arose and stated the reasons that had induced the call for such a convention.

It had been made in the hope that there might be some concert of action to destroy the enemies of the Union, South and North, and with a view

to future results that were not only expected but also needed and demanded by the people of the country.

The object was to do good service in this time of peril, when we were threatened with destruction by Abolition and Secession, and to unite against all schemes which are impelling our Republic.

On motion of Mr. SHEPPARD, of Rhode-Island, the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, was chosen Chairman.

On being escorted to the chair, Mr. CRITTENDEN said:

We are assembled, as I understand, for a patriotic purpose—none other than to consult on the best mode and manner to preserve and promote the vital interests of the country, and adopt some wise plan of action to secure its redemption and everlasting welfare. This is the object, and the only object of the meeting. In such a council I am glad to be. Our aims are not to be influenced by any party purpose, much less is it our object to organize any new party. Our country is the only object to claim our attention, while we are to give attention to the performance of such duty in the most wise and efficient manner. He had before taken his part in politics; we all had; but now he wished to devote his indefinite postponement.

Mr. NOELL of Mississippi favored another meeting.

The motion to appoint a committee of one from each State, to draft resolutions expressive of the object of the meeting was carried.

The following is the Committee:

Chairman of Committee: John B. Mason, of Missouri; Shadwell of Rhode-Island; Ostendorf of Maryland; Allen of Ohio; Richardson of Illinois; Cravens of Indiana; Brown of Virginia; Johnson of Tennessee; Ward of New-York; Fisher of Delaware; Maynard of Tennessee, and Steele of New-Jersey.

Mr. SHEPPARD moved that the Chairman of this meeting be the Chairman of the Committee, and directed the Secretary to put the motion.

It was carried.

Mr. WICKLIFFE accepted the suggestion.

Mr. STRELE of New-York said there was no desire on his part to give this meeting a partisan character. The meeting had not been called, as he understood, with a view to party policy of any kind whatever, although many of us have been mixed up during our lives with party matters, party predilections and party prejudices. But we are in a time when all personal and party consideration pale before the imminent and momentous events that have transpired, and the immense subjects and great questions submitted to our judgment and action. We meet here to-day with but one desire and purpose, that is to rise above all party consideration, that we may act wisely for ourselves and our posterity, and the present and future good of our country. I, for one, am ready to engage in any measures that will tend to this result. I am ready to make any sacrifice, personal or otherwise, that may be considered necessary for the best interests of the country. The committee suggested for appointment will report some resolution that will unite us all together as one solid body, to act for the good of our country.

Mr. WICKLIFFE—I think I made it distinct that this meeting was not for the purpose of the organization of any party, but to have the effect of uniting our own and the people's sentiments upon the great questions before the country, and the best mode of preserving the Union and restoring universal harmony in all things, so far as our section can make it practicable. I did not come here to organize any political party, but for action to meet the public expectation and hope everywhere. I want to draw to our action here the public attention everywhere from all side issues, with a view to defeat those measures that will operate to the national disadvantage in time to come. I want some resolution adopted that will show we have committed ourselves to a declaration of conduct.

Mr. RICHARDSON of Illinois—I suppose I am regarded as a party man. It is known to the gentlemen who are present that within a few days past I have signed an address which has for its object the reorganization of a party. I did so because I saw a disposition on the part of the people for that very thing, and because I saw it would meet the acceptance of the American people. After returning to the Democratic party, Mr. Richardson said: I do not despair of the people of the Northern States coming up to the full measure of this occasion. For the State of Illinois I can especially say this—I am satisfied that when we again assemble here in a future Congress, the extreme Abolition party will not have enough members on this floor to make a roll-call. I agree in what has been said about the country and its good. We are to preserve the Constitution as it is, and to restore the Union as it was. It is not to be tampered with or injured by any mere political party. I protest against, and I denounce anything of that kind. Though we all have different views on certain subjects, still our first and main purpose is to preserve the Constitution. We have plenty of power within the limits of the Constitution to prosecute this war, and in the entire preservation, I, for one, am ready to help.

Mr. MIZZENS of Kentucky discussed the war question, and its causes and effects. He was for a unity of action to defeat and overthrow those who had caused and were maintaining this rebellion. He said: I am ready for this purpose to unite upon some basis of action against the Rebels. It is my firm and earnest desire to overthrow everywhere those who are and have been striving to change our form of government. I want to unite with every man who is for putting down this rebellion. I am for meeting the wants of the South, and the other enemies of my country, known as Abolitionists. I am for ignoring all party distinctions.

Mr. SHEPPARD of Rhode-Island—I suppose that the object of this meeting is to organize a plan of action to meet and defeat certain proposed before Congress. I am in favor of the administration of the Constitution according to its spirit. I am opposed to those who are opposed to it, whether they come from the North or the South; whether they are in arms against the Government or not. I am opposed to many of the schemes that have been advanced in this House. I am opposed to the general confiscation measure, whether by legislative enactment or any other process. I am in favor of the maintenance of the supremacy of this Government at any cost. I am opposed to the determination to interfere with our military officers, weakening and paralyzing their efforts in putting down this rebellion. I am opposed to an interference with the local institutions of any State where they are protected by the Constitution. I would punish the leaders of this rebellion as far as any gentleman, perhaps. If it is necessary to exact any law to bring about such punishment, I am ready to support it. I am not willing to stand upon any platform which has as yet been put forth to the country. I agree that the supremacy of the Constitution and the maintenance of the Government is our first and highest and noblest duty. If the meeting was for the purpose of reforming the old Democratic party, I would not be here. I am a supporter of the policy of the President of the United States. Of course, I do not commit myself to his every act. I am opposed to those who denounce Abraham Lincoln. A truly conservative party cannot denounce him. He believes in a wise policy. I am willing to commit myself to a unity with any man in maintaining the Constitution and this Government. I am opposed to Mr. Arnold, to make freedom national and Slavery sectional. I am opposed to the adoption of any agitating measure, from which can result no good or practical utility at this time. I believe the general conciliation and general emancipation measure both nowise more appropriate.

Mr. CRAVEN of Indiana—This is certainly an extraordinary meeting, in some respects. I do not see how having attended any meeting of this kind. We see here having attended any meeting of different parties. And yet all united on one ground. We have been notified that it is not for party purposes, and we see here men who voted for Mr. Breckinridge, and Mr. Bell, and Mr.

Lincoln. We have met here as conservative men, for the whole country's good, and to direct the fates of public attention, consideration, and opinion. We are to rise above party, to the high and dignified full-grown statesmen, to meet the requirements and necessities of the times. I am opposed to the agitation of subjects prejudicial to the interests of the Union. I am opposed to the agitation of the question of Slavery, as tending to destroy the Government. I am for just such a policy as will satisfy these Southern men now in arms against the Government that they are mistaken and must relinquish their hopes. The Western people, whose interests are divided, must look to their pecuniary interests, and to all their interests—to those interests involved in a maintenance of the Government and a preservation of peace.

The dog is popular. Anecdotes about the dog compare favorably with those about the man. Sometimes even the dog gets the best of it. The sagacity of the dog is proverbial. One mentioned by a writer on dogs, Mr. Charles Dickens, refused to enter a certain field with his sporting master. He was found sitting and contemplative a sign—"All dogs trespassing will be shot." Samuel Weller, esq., gave this fact to the writer. The dog has also been dramatized successfully. Never, however, has he been so displayed as the Museum will set him forth to-day, and during the week. Henceforward let these be called Dog-days.

A correspondent reminds us that there was a musical reception on Thursday evening at the house of Mrs. James, Madison avenue, of very superior artistic merit. The singers were partly amateur and partly professional. The music all Italian. Among the ladies were Mrs. James and Mrs. Farnham. The two new opera singers fresh from Havana but unheard yet in public here, sang and are much praised.—Signori Spriglio and Ippolito—tenor and baritone. The pieces were—Mi Manca la voce, Pria di Morir, Non son tuo figlio, Qui la voce, Della Duchessa, Dno dei Mascadri, Dunque io sono, Te mazzetto di fiori, Casta diva, Quartetto Bigotello. We are assured by competent authority that it was a most rare entertainment. The direction was under Signor Barilli.

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**FROM McDOWELL'S ARMY.**

**Jeff. Davis's Coachman.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

FREDERICKSBURG, May 7, 1862.

By far the most interesting arrival we have had in this department for several days was that of Wm. Jackson, the negro coachman of the Hon. Jeff. Davis, who came within our lines a few evenings since. The news that so important a personage had reached us spread with great rapidity through the camps, and was the theme of conversation until a late hour. The fact cannot be questioned that the most important information we receive of the enemy's movements reaches us through the contrabands. The wisdom of the policy so long advocated by THE TRIBUNE has been more than established by the commanding General of this department. Almost every movement of the enemy is instantly known to him through these invaluable aids. Instead of being driven back from our lines until they touch the Rebel bayonets, and compelled to endure hardships tenfold greater than the labors of the corn or the rice-field, they are taken by the hand as brothers, their simple story heard and trusted, and not unfrequently made the basis of important military movement. In this instance of Jackson, his arrival created as much excitement as that of a Rebel Brigadier-General. Generals, Colonels, and Majors flocked around him in great numbers, and had not the commanding General himself sent for him, would have sheared the better portion of the night in listening to his narrative. Indeed, so valuable did Gen. McDowell consider his information that he immediately telegraphed it to the War Department.

The old chaps, that a mulatto may have a soul and be intelligent on account of the white blood in his veins, while a pure negro is nothing but an overgrown monkey minus the caudal appendage, will not hold true in this instance. Jack is as black as a Congo negro, and much more intelligent than a good many white folks. Your correspondent doubts very much whether any of the members of the Rebel Congress, or even the Rebel Generals, were more thoroughly informed of the movements of their own countrymen than this negro. After passing through the rebel lines he was taken to the hospital, and compelled to undergo a severe cross-examination from Major-General Bragg, who, it is said, could not detect in his story, while a pure negro is nothing but an overgrown monkey minus the caudal appendage, will not hold true in this instance. Jack is as black as a Congo negro, and much more intelligent than a good many white folks. 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